

Child Safeguarding Policy Statement

Blue Drum - The Arts Specialists Support Agency is fully committed to safeguarding the well-being of all children, young people and vulnerable persons with whom we interact and to the development and implementation of policies and practices that protect children, young people and vulnerable persons from harm.

The aim of Blue Drum's protection and welfare policy is to promote best practice and set out a procedural framework to ensure that its employees and service users are equipped to make informed and confident responses to specific issues and take proactive steps to minimise risk with regard to protection and welfare issues.

In implementing its policy, Blue Drum will adhere to the recommendations of *Children First – National Guidelines for the Protection and Welfare of Children* (2017), its obligations under the *Children First Act, 2015*, and the compliance requirements outlined in the Arts Council's Quality Assurance Framework.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Blue Drum, including the board of trustees, contract for service providers and volunteers. Blue Drum has implemented procedures covering:

- Codes of behaviour for board and those employed under a contract of service
- Reporting of suspected or disclosed abuse
- Confidentiality and record keeping
- Recruitment and selection of key people
- Contract for Services provider management and supervision
- Allegations of misconduct or abuse by trustees, service providers and volunteers.
- Complaints and comments
- Incidents and accidents

This policy will be reviewed every two years. The next review date is June 2027.

Signed Ed Carroll

Designated Liaison Person

Date: 05/05/2025

Child Safeguarding Statement

1. Name of services/organisation: Blue Drum - The Arts Specialists Support Agency

2. Nature of service and principles to safeguard children from harm

Blue Drum has a strong track record of supporting local civil society having been established in 2002 through a Combat Poverty Agency Working Group, its goal is to support community-led arts and cultural work, strengthening feelings of belonging and identity within communities that face disadvantages and systemic barriers to cultural participation. Its policies support best practice in all aspects of its arts practice. Blue Drum is committed to promoting opportunities for children and young people to participate in the arts and recognises the importance of its role in creating a culture of safety that promotes the welfare of those availing of its services.

3. Risk Assessment

We have carried out a risk assessment of any potential for harm to a child while availing of our services, and have put measures in place to mitigate against such risks. Below is a list of the areas of risk identified and the list of procedures for managing these risks.

	Risk Identified	Procedure in place to manage risk identified
1.	Blue Drum members attend arts projects and events organized by artists, groups, and organizations that are partners, affiliates, or recipients of opportunities managed by Blue Drum. When participating as guests, audience members, or observers, Blue Drum representatives are unlikely to have individual interactions with children.	<p>The Child Protection Policy encompasses a code of conduct for staff, procedures for secure recruitment (including, where appropriate, Garda vetting), and the provision of information and training.</p> <p>All trustees of Blue Drum and contracted individuals will be expected to read the updated policy document and sign to confirm their understanding and acceptance.</p> <p>Events organised in partnership with other organisations will require prior protocol on safeguarding matters.</p>
2.	Blue Drum offers support and opportunities to community organisations, groups, and artists who engage with children and young people.	<p>Blue Drum is implementing its Protection and Welfare Policy in accordance with best practice standards.</p> <p>Organisations, groups, and artists supported by Blue Drum will be required to acknowledge their compliance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Children First National Guidance 2017.</p>

3.	Blue Drum works in communities with various groups, which can involve digital communications with young people, use of photography/video.	Blue Drum has a policy and supporting templates to obtain explicit consent before capturing or sharing images/videos. The policy respects participants' rights not to be photographed or filmed and will receive parental / guardian approval in advance of any moving or still image documentation and clear statement of what the material will be used for and how it will be stored.
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4. Procedures

Blue Drum has policies and procedures in place to support its intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our service that contain information in relation to the following:

- The management of allegations of abuse or misconduct against workers/volunteers of a child availing of our service
- The safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers to work with children
- The provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information, including the identification of the occurrence of harm will be available to trustees, service contractees and volunteers in May each year.
- The procedure for the reporting of child protection and welfare concerns to Tusla
- A list of the persons in the service who are mandated persons
- Details of the 'relevant person' within the organisation

A copy of this Child Safeguarding Statement is available at
https://archive.org/details/@blue_drum

5. Implementation

Blue Drum is committed to an on-going process of implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement with regard to relevant services and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed by the board every two years, or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Signed: MARY DOHENY

05/05/2025 Chairperson

For queries, please contact
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